

MARVEL

#3

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TM



***This cover has nothing to do with what's inside**

CAGE!

by **GENNDY TARTAKOVSKY**

Cage had a date with his lovely ladyfriend, Misty Knight—but when she stood him up, Cage realized that all wasn't good in the hood! Someone was snatching the city's heroes, and it wasn't long before Cage got caged by a couple of felonious felines! He woke up in a jungle, lost and confused. Who would do such a thing?

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...MISTY KNIGHT,
MAN, ARE YOU A
SIGHT FOR SORE
EYES...

I JUST
HAD THE TRIPPIEST
NIGHTMARE...

YOU
WOULDN'T BELIEVE
ME IF I TOLD YOU. BUT
THANK CHRISTMAS IT'S ALL
A HORRIBLE FREAKIN'
DREAM!

AND SO LUKE CAGE'S MYSTERIOUS JOURNEY HAS FINALLY COME TO AN END. LET'S FIND OUT WHERE HE HAS LANDED AND WHO IS RESPONSIBLE.

MR. CAGE!
WE GREET YOU WITH A SMILE, SO I HOPE YOU WILL STAY A WHILE.

MY NAME IS PROFESSOR SOOS, AND THESE ARE MY ASSOCIATES THAT I FIND OF GREAT USE.

THIS IS MR. LION AND MR. TIGER, QUITE THE DUO THAT I ADMIRE.





SHOCKED!



AWED!



JAILED!

WHAT KIND OF
FREAK SHOW IS
THIS GUY?



YOUR LAME RHYMING AIN'T
COOL, YOU JUST SOUND
LIKE A FOOL!

YOU ARE A
GREAT CHAMPION FROM
YOUR CITY, AND YOU ARE
UNQUESTIONABLY
WITTY.



EACH HERO IS
SPECIAL IN WHAT
THEY CAN DO, AND I
HAVE HANDPICKED
ALL OF YOU.

SWEET MOMMA!
HE AIN'T KIDDING,
EVERYONE'S
HERE...

IRON
FIST.

BROTHER
VOODOO.

GHOST
RIDER.

DAZZLER.

MISTY
KNIGHT.

BLACK
PANTHER.

I HAVE SPENT MY LIFE PREPARING FOR THIS GRAND SPECTACLE, AND HAVE WATCHED AND CHOSEN YOU CAREFULLY TO BATTLE IN MY FESTIVAL.

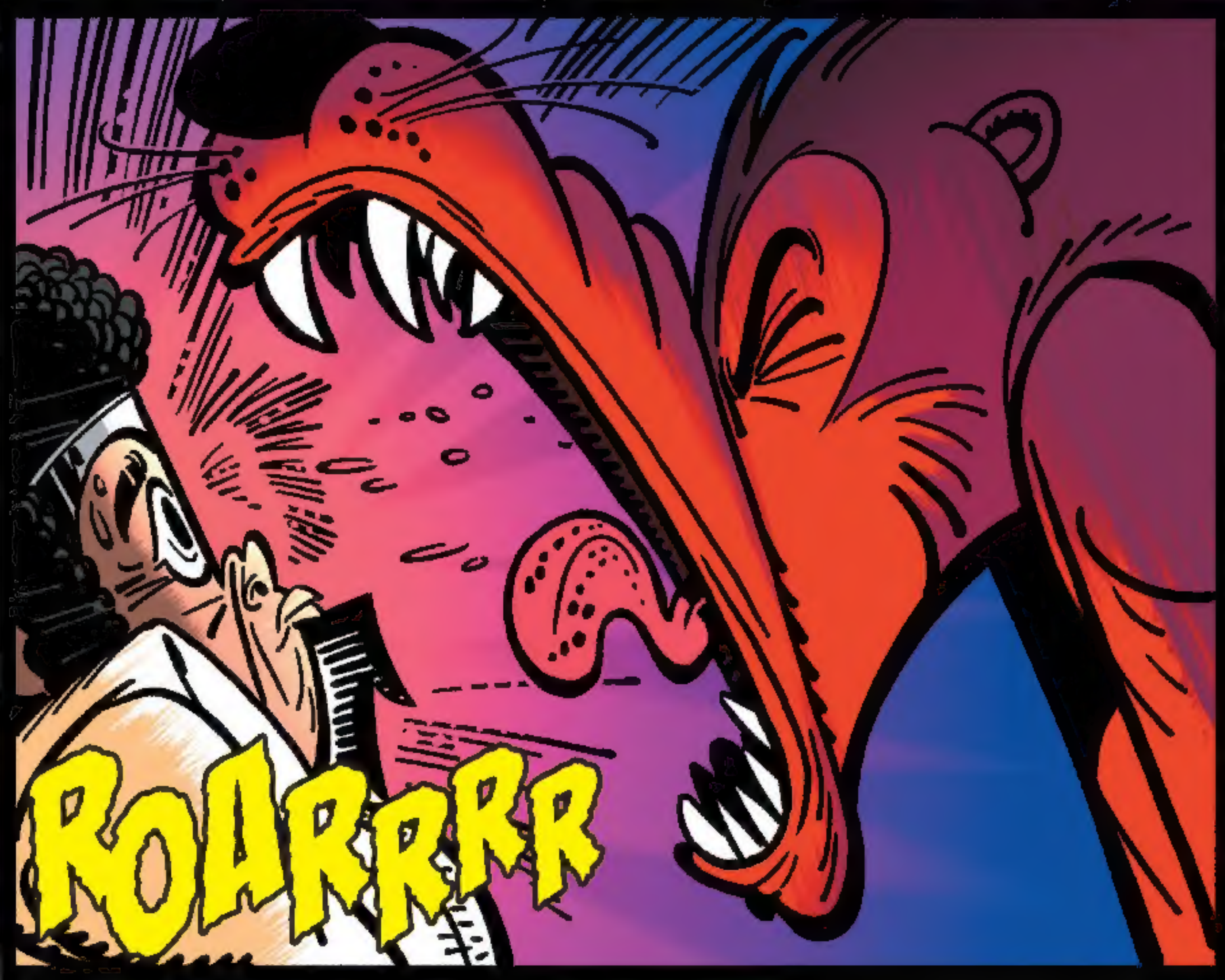
YOU ARE ALL HEROES FROM DIFFERENT NATIONS, AND YOUR OPPONENTS WILL BE MY CREATIONS.



AND FOR THE WINNER, YOU WILL REALIZE, A MOST SPECIAL AND DESERVING PRIZE.



AND IF I REFUSE?



ROARRRRR



THEN IT WILL BE THE END FOR YOU, MY FRIEND.



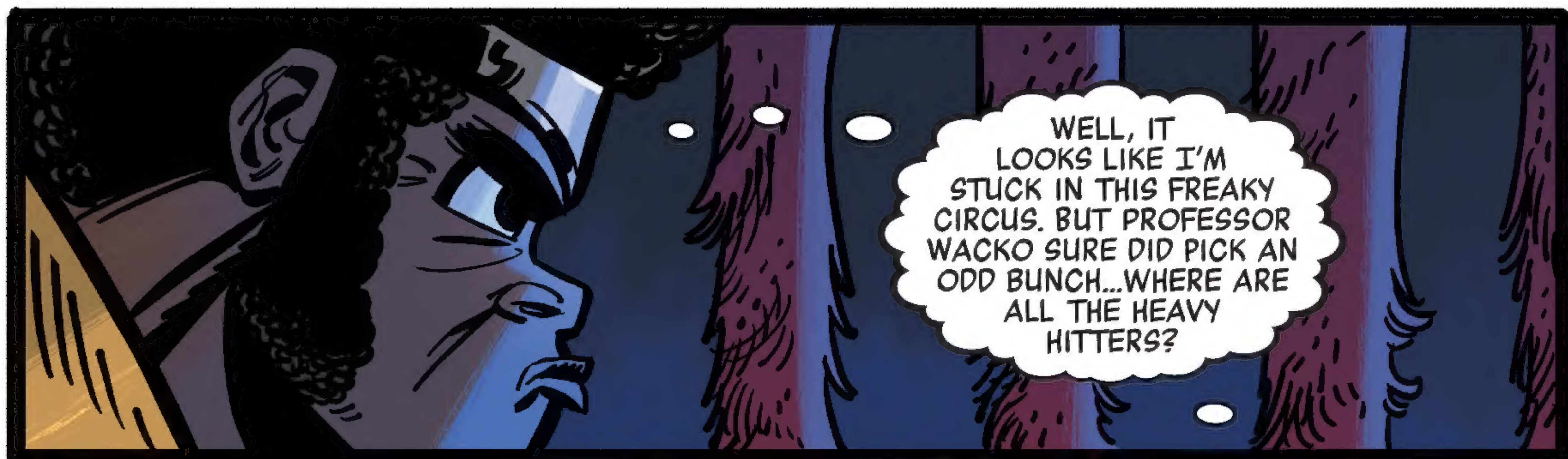
REST WELL TONIGHT...



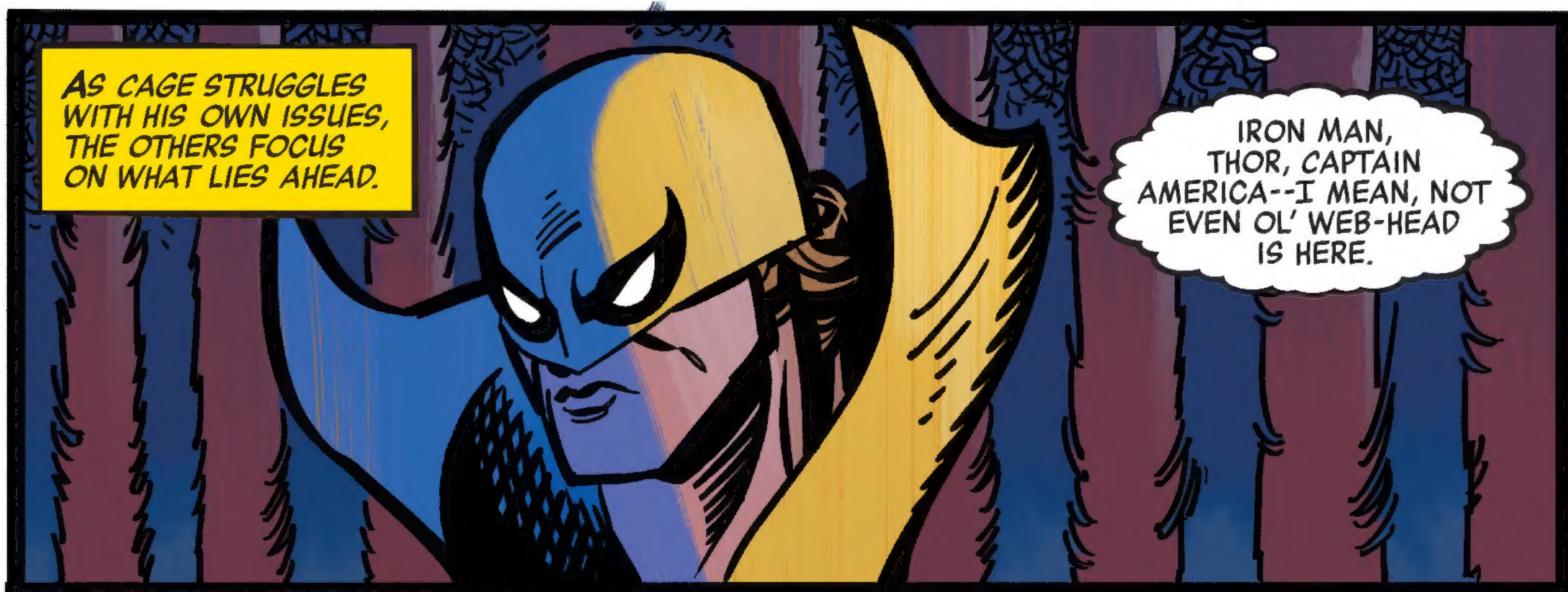
...FOR TOMORROW YOU WILL FIGHT.







WELL, IT LOOKS LIKE I'M STUCK IN THIS FREAKY CIRCUS. BUT PROFESSOR WACKO SURE DID PICK AN ODD BUNCH...WHERE ARE ALL THE HEAVY HITTERS?



AS CAGE STRUGGLES WITH HIS OWN ISSUES, THE OTHERS FOCUS ON WHAT LIES AHEAD.

IRON MAN, THOR, CAPTAIN AMERICA--I MEAN, NOT EVEN OL' WEB-HEAD IS HERE.

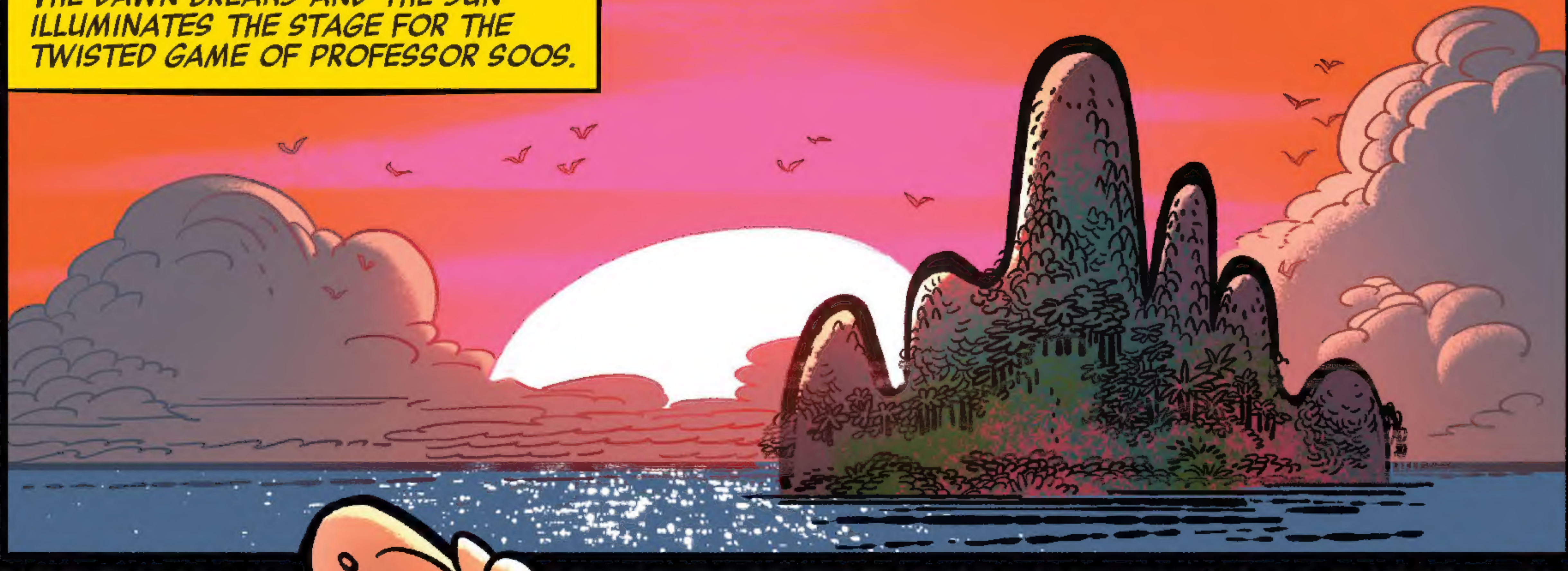


WELL, COULD BE A WORSE WAY TO MAKE A BUCK... I WONDER HOW MUCH THE GRAND PRIZE IS WORTH?



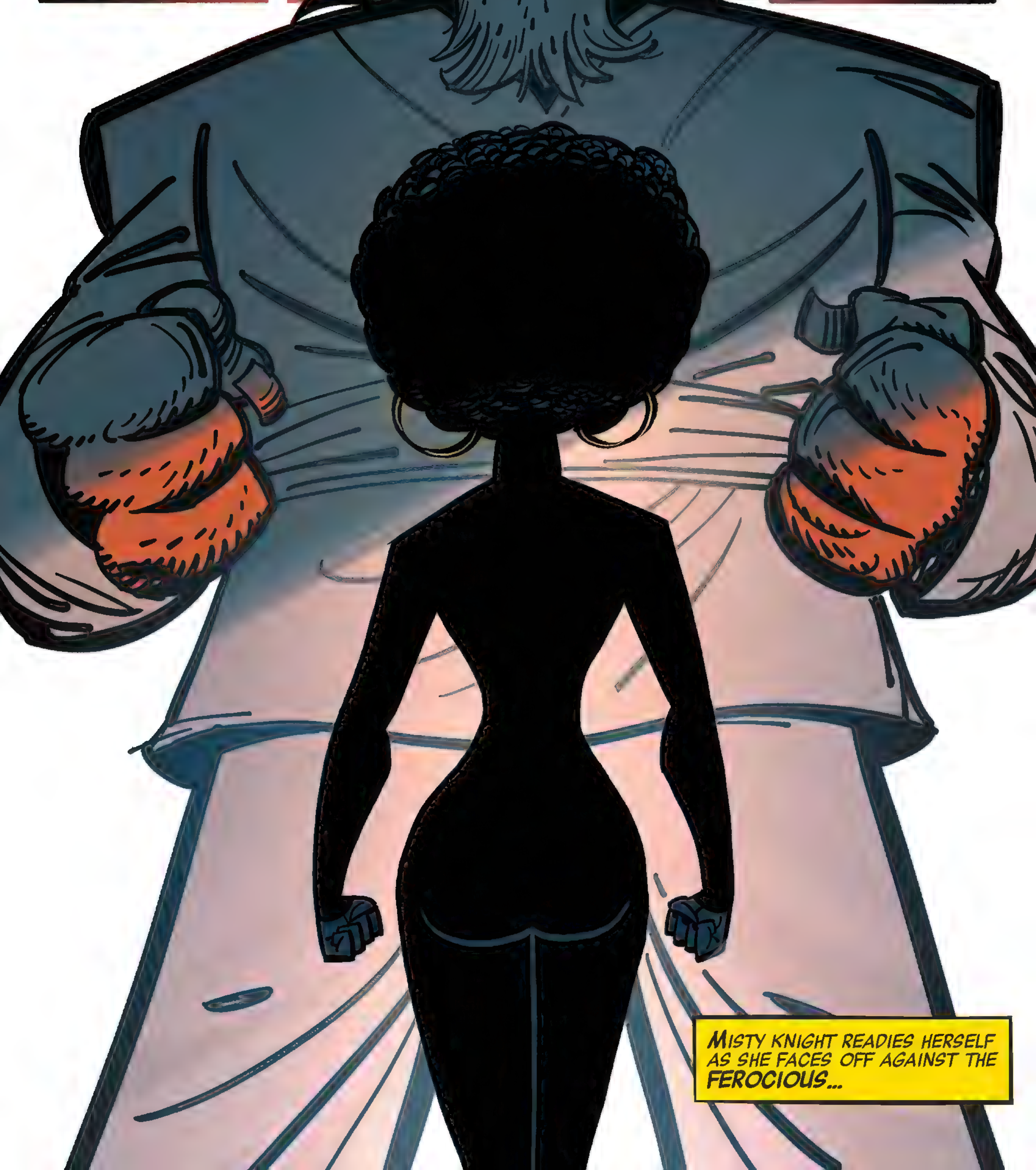
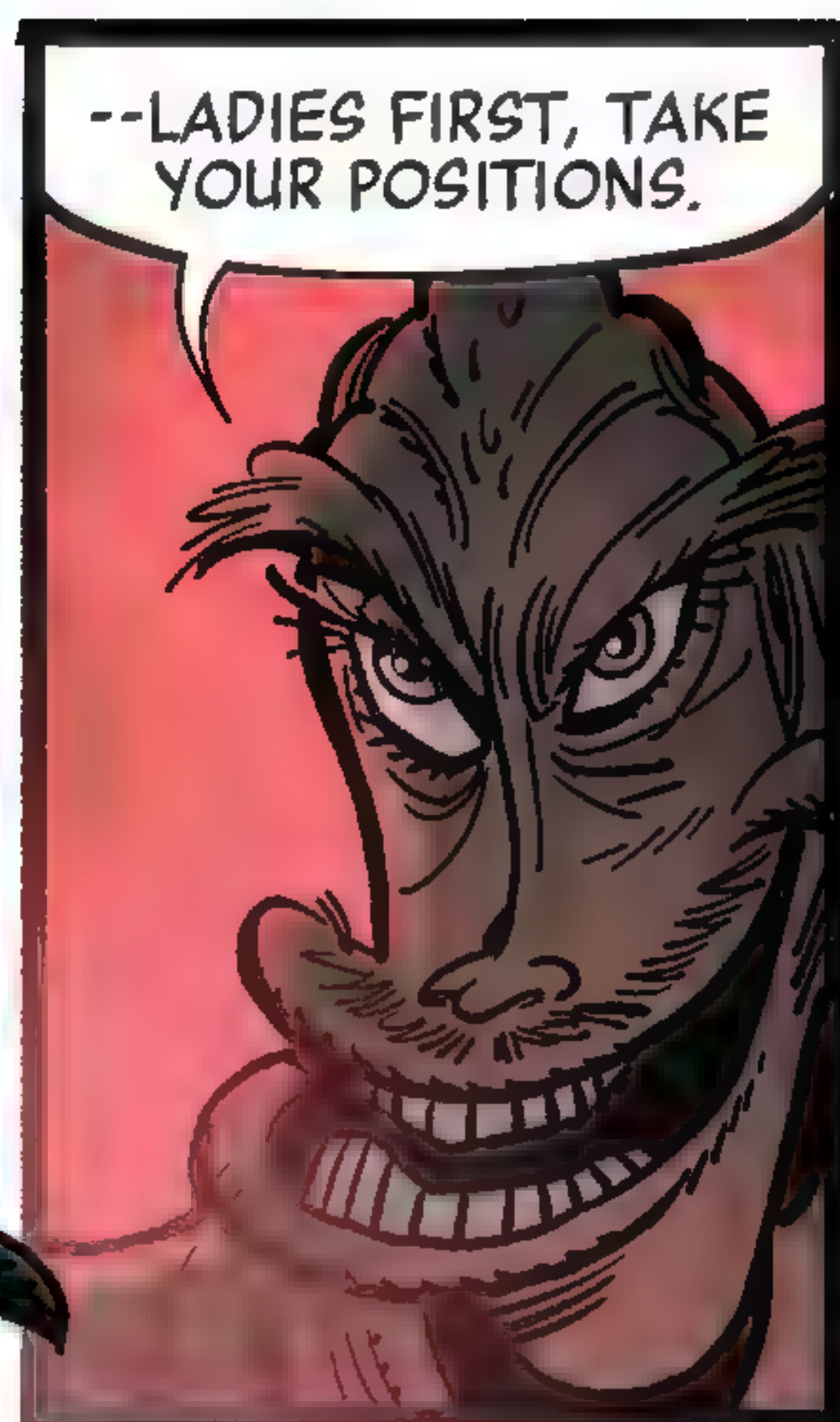
LORD KNOWS I COULD USE THE CASH...THE HERO FOR HIRE BUSINESS BARELY PAYS THE RENT.

THE DAWN BREAKS AND THE SUN
ILLUMINATES THE STAGE FOR THE
TWISTED GAME OF PROFESSOR SOOS.



I AM GIDDY
THAT THIS DAY HAS
FINALLY COME, FOR IT HAS
COST ME A CONSIDERABLE
SUM. FOUR THREE TWO
ONE, THE GAMES HAVE
OFFICIALLY BEGUN.





MISTY KNIGHT READIES HERSELF
AS SHE FACES OFF AGAINST THE
FEROCIOUS...

...MR. TIGER!!!

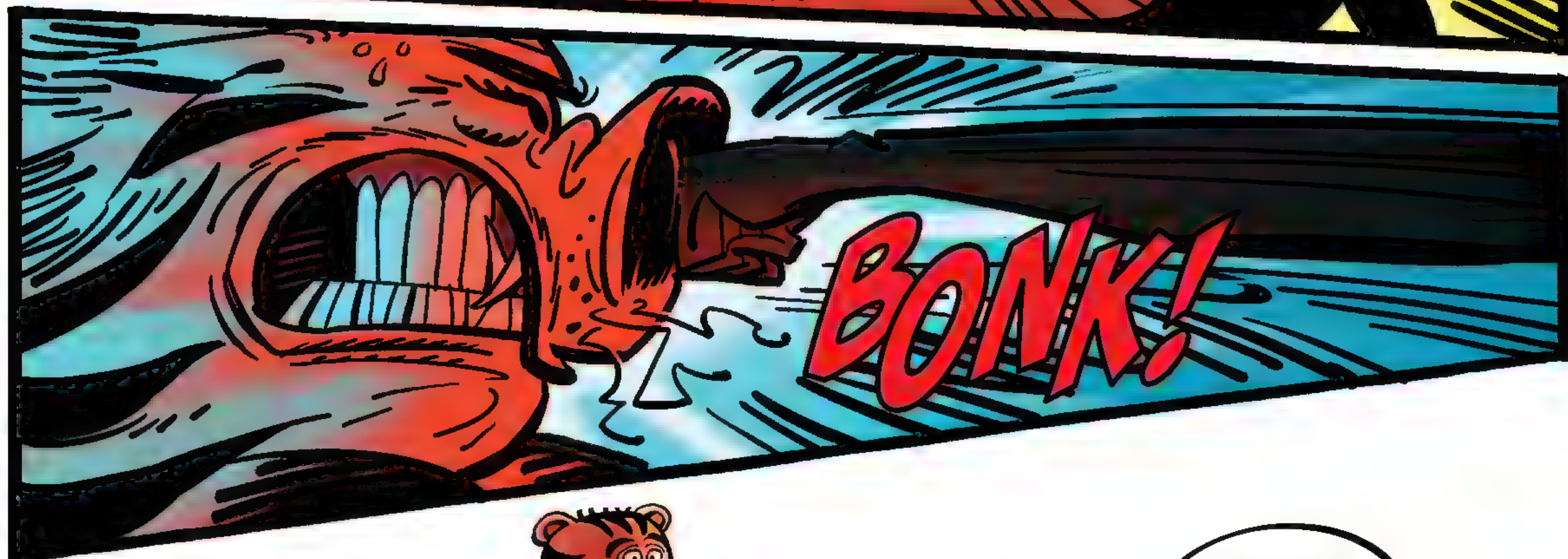
THE FIGHT BEGINS WITH AN
EXPLOSION OF IMMEASURABLE
SPEED AND SKILL!

SWEET
CHRISTMAS!!!



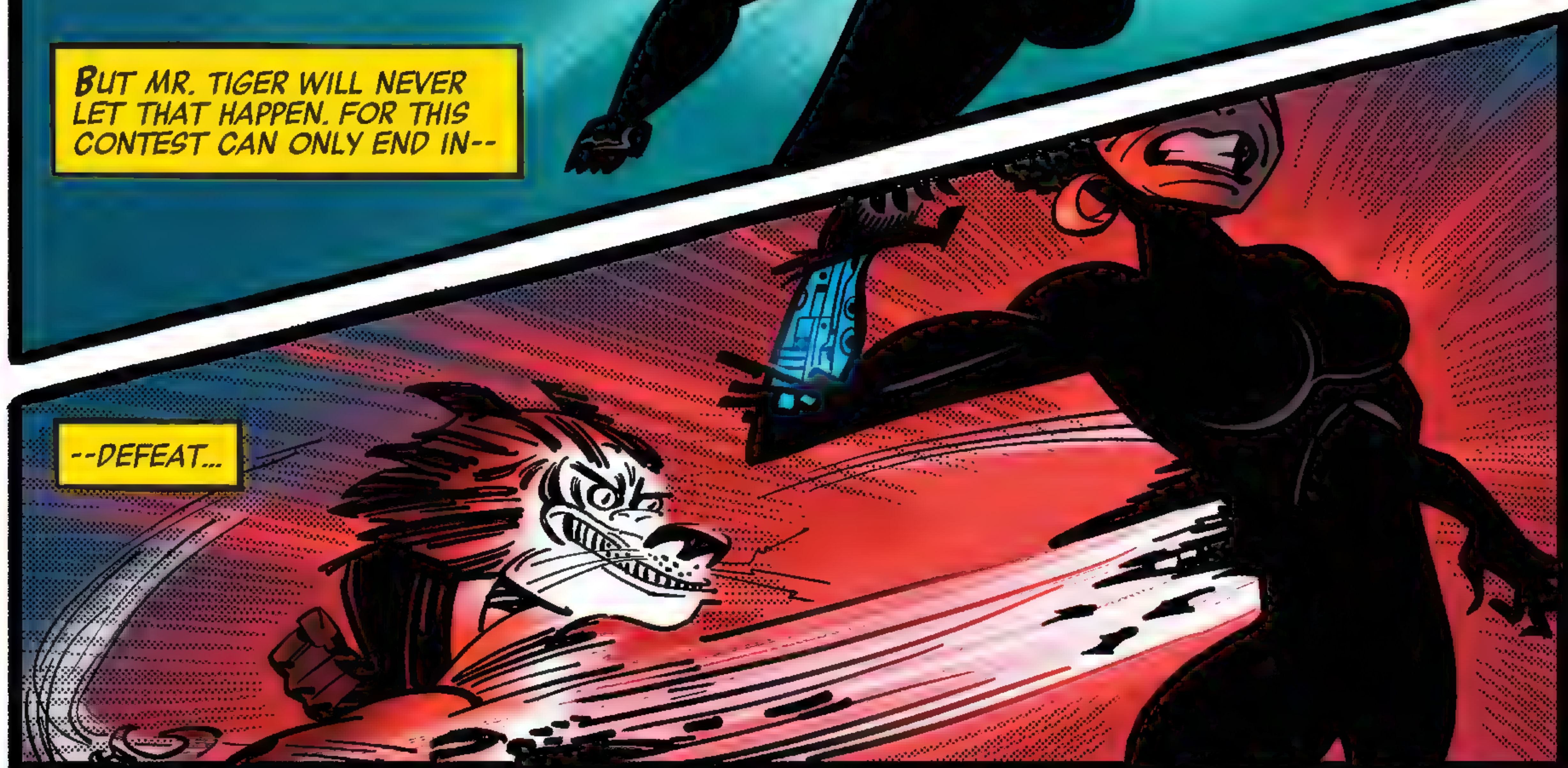


MR. TIGER TAKES A BITE!
BUT TO HIS SURPRISE, HE
DOESN'T TASTE SOFT, JUICY
FLESH BUT COLD HARD
STEEL! COURTESY OF
MISTY'S BIONIC ARM!





BUT MR. TIGER WILL NEVER
LET THAT HAPPEN. FOR THIS
CONTEST CAN ONLY END IN--



--DEFEAT...



...OR
VICTORY.



PROFESSOR SOOS LOOKS ON WITH GREAT GLEE. HE IS QUITE ENJOYING THE BEATDOWN THAT MISTY KNIGHT IS ENDURING AT THE HANDS OF ONE OF HIS MONSTROSITIES.

WILL SHE BE THE ONE TO CLAIM HIS PRIZE? FROM THE LOOKS OF THINGS, THAT WOULD BE A NO.



THINGS FOR MISTY DON'T IMPROVE.



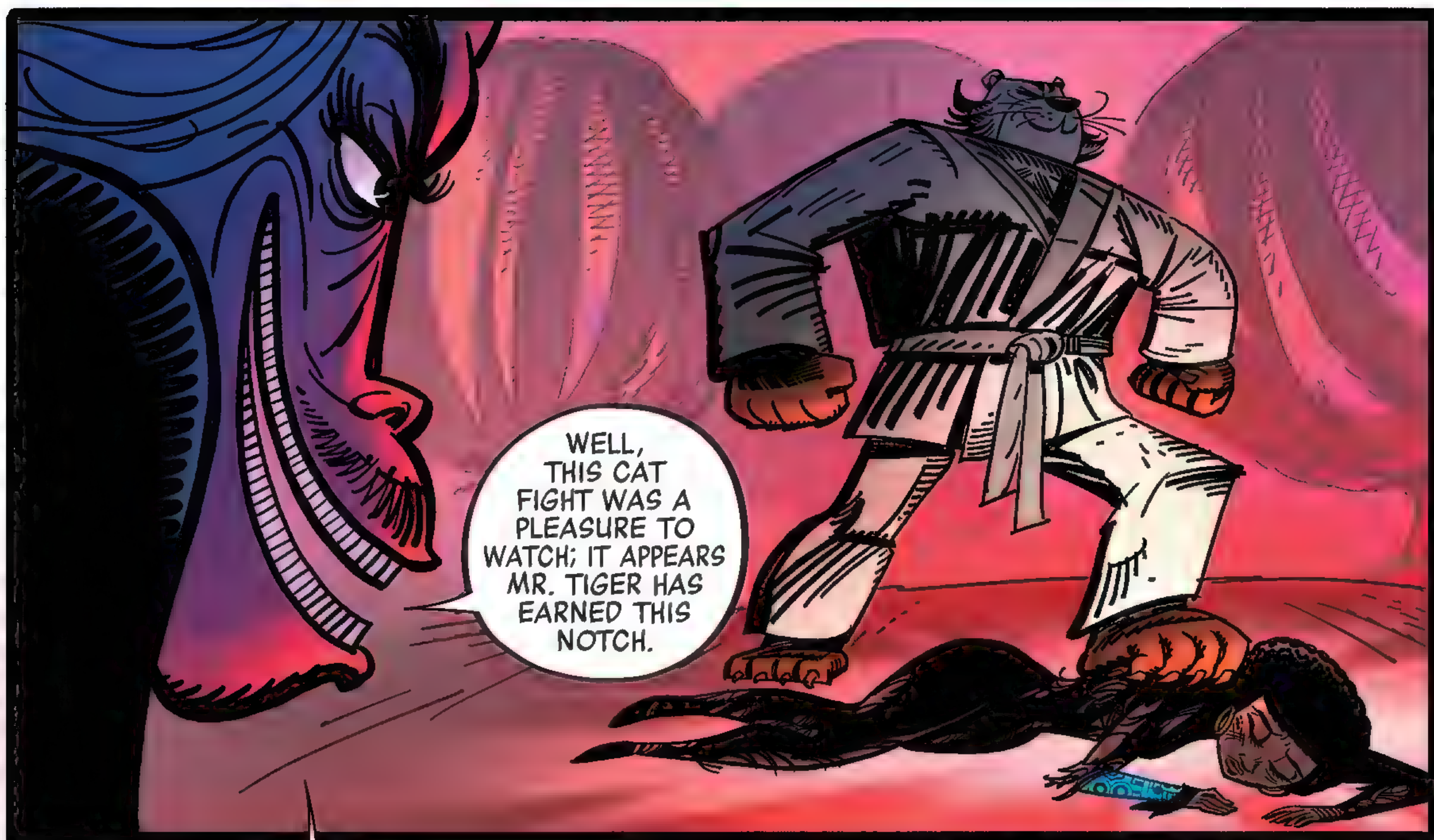
ALL THE OTHERS CAN DO...



...IS JUST LOOK ON...



...IN STUNNED SILENCE...



...MONKEY!!



SCREEEEEE CHHHH!!!

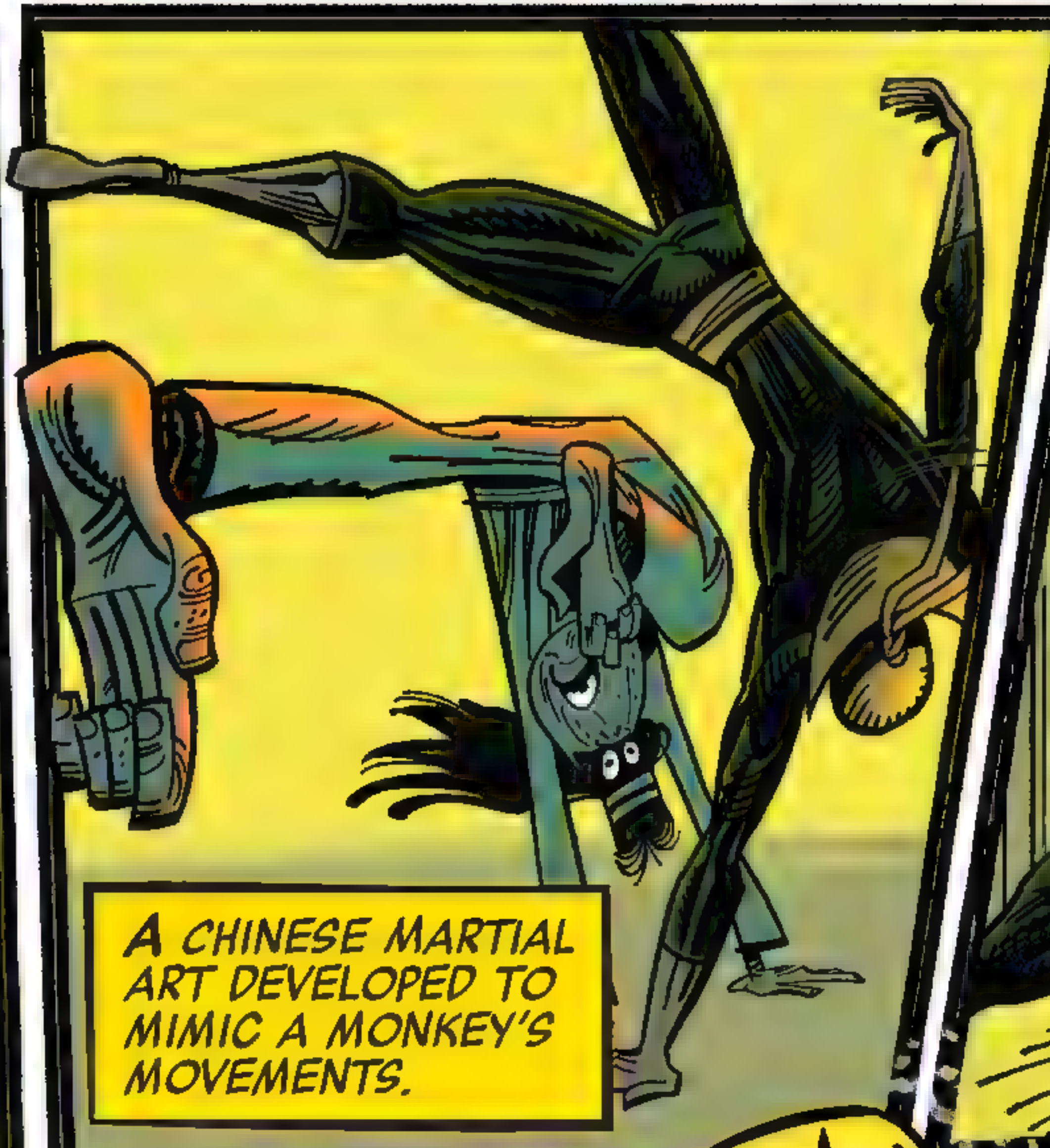


MONKEY KUNG FU!!

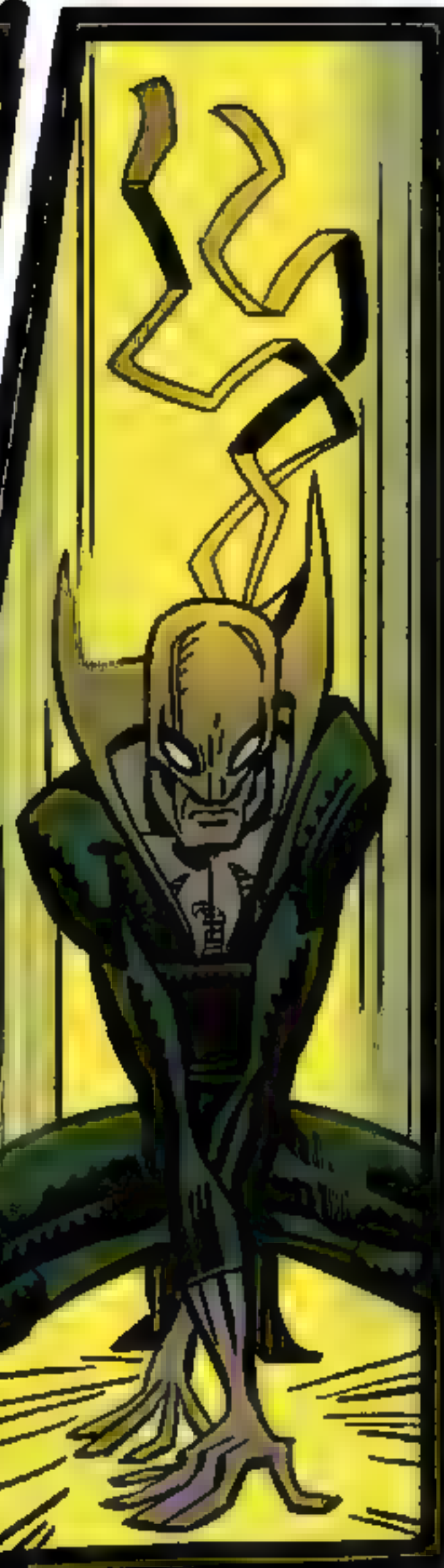




"HOU QUAN," THE MONKEY FIST, FOUND ITS ORIGINS IN THE HAN DYNASTY.



A CHINESE MARTIAL ART DEVELOPED TO MIMIC A MONKEY'S MOVEMENTS.



DANGEROUS IN THE HANDS OF A MASTER...

HIS MONKEY STYLE IS TOO FAST. I ONLY HAVE ONE CHANCE. I MUST CHANNEL THE POWER OF THE IRON FIST.

...BUT A MONKEY DOING MONKEY STYLE IS LETHAL.

IRON FIST BEGINS TO
CHANNEL HIS CHI...

FOCUSING IT AND DRAWING
ITS POWER TO ONE PLACE...

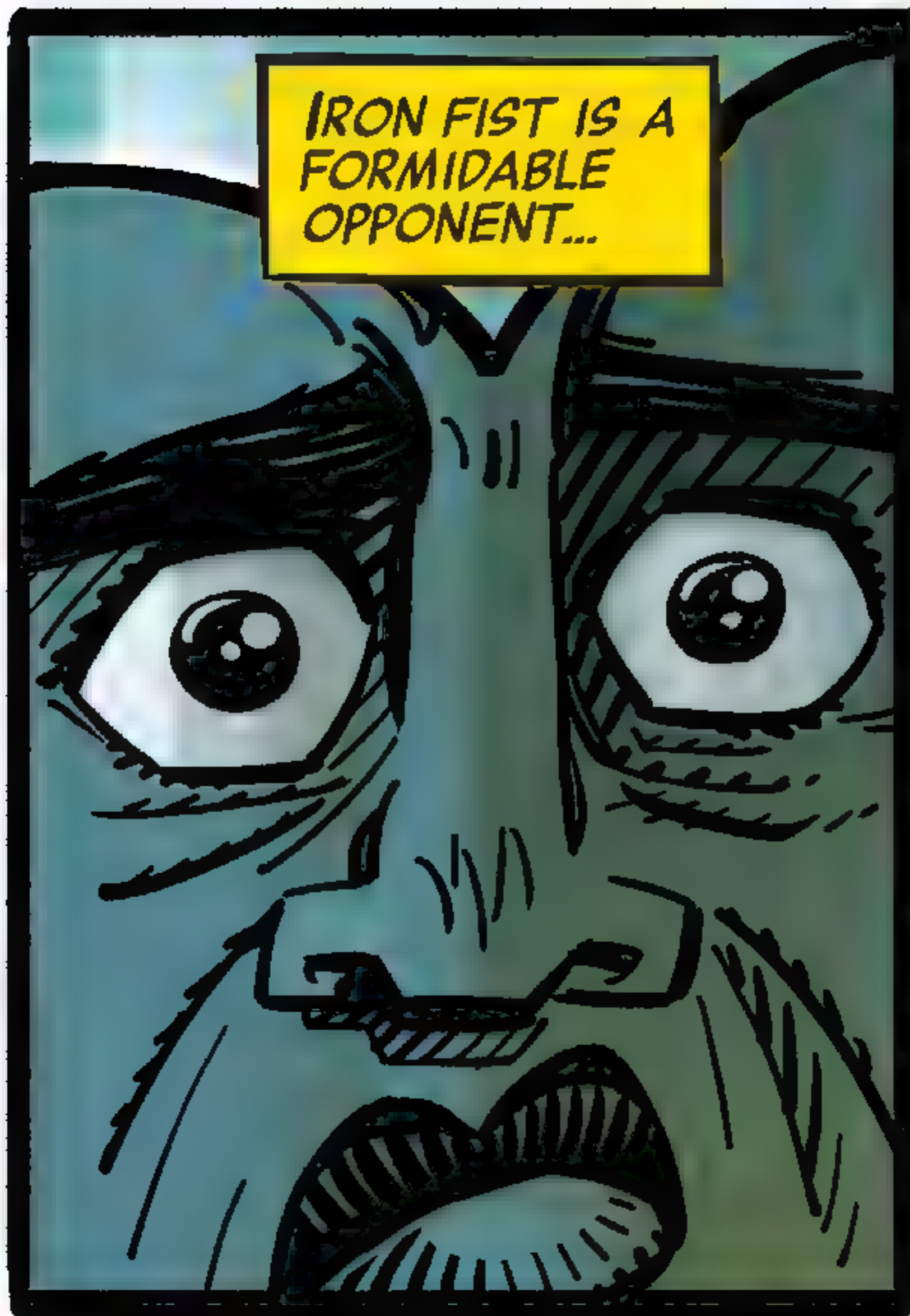
...HIS FIST.

THE CHI FLOWS THROUGHOUT AND CHANGES THE VERY
PROPERTIES OF MATTER. **FLESH BECOMES IRON.**

THE **POWER** SURGES! NO ONE
CAN WITHSTAND THE MIGHTY
POWER OF THE IRON FI--

OOPS,
TOO LATE!

DOOF!



MR. LION SEES CAGE AS A HELPLESS ANTELOPE IN THE JUNGLE, INNOCENT PREY READY FOR THE POUNCING. HE ERUPTS WITH PRIMAL RAGE!



YOU'RE THE DUDE THAT COLD-COCKED ME A FEW DAYS AGO WHEN I WASN'T LOOKING. BACK WHERE I COME FROM, THAT JUST AIN'T RIGHT.



AND GUESS WHAT?



PAYBACK
HURTS LIKE A
MOTHER!



SOOS PERKS
UP. CAGE IS
IMPRESSIVE...



NOW YOU'VE ONLY
GOT EIGHT LIVES
LEFT.





EIGHT.



SEVEN.



SIX.



FIVE.



FOUR.



THREE.



TWO.

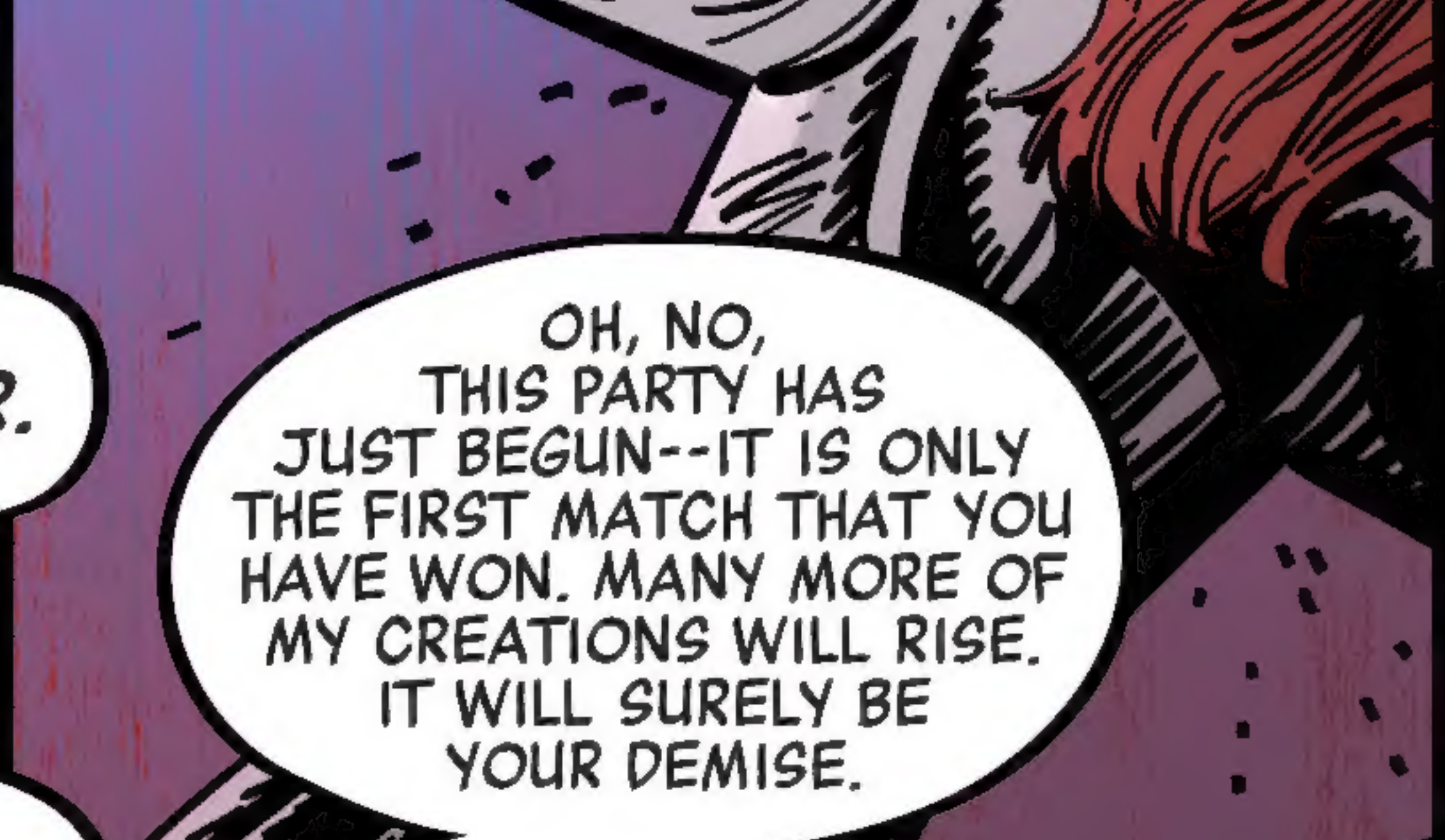


ONE.

YOU'RE
DONE,
CAT!



THE
PARTY
IS OVER,
SOOS!



OH, NO,
THIS PARTY HAS
JUST BEGUN--IT IS ONLY
THE FIRST MATCH THAT YOU
HAVE WON. MANY MORE OF
MY CREATIONS WILL RISE.
IT WILL SURELY BE
YOUR DEMISE.



A
CHAMPION
IS WHO I SEEK, THE
ONE WHO SURVIVES
BATTLING MY
FREAKS.

THE FINAL ISSUE IS NEXT...
AND IT'S **BIG!** MORE GLORIOUS HEROES,
MORE EPIC BATTLES, MORE WEIRD ANIMAL/
HUMAN HYBRIDS, AND MORE RHYMING! (SORRY.)
AND, OF COURSE, MORE **CAGE!** IT'S THE
CONCLUSION! DON'T MISS THIS LAST ONE,
'CAUSE YOU'LL BE LOSING OUT ON ALL THE FUN!

NEXT=

CAGE!

MARVEL



**DANG! CAGE GOT KNOCKED
OUT OF HIS OWN COMIC!**

